



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Atsushi KITAMURA et al.

Group Art Unit: 2875

Application No.: 10/760,587

Examiner: M. DUNWIDDIE

Filed: January 21, 2004

Docket No.: 118402

For: SPREAD ILLUMINATING APPARATUS HAVING LIGHT CONVERGING MEANS

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the March 28, 2006 Office Action, reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks. Claims 1-10 are pending in this application.

Applicants gratefully appreciate the indication that claims 2 and 5-10 are allowable.

The Office Action rejects 1, 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Akaoka (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0135560) in view of Min et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0130880). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

In particular, in order to qualify as prior art against the current application, both the applied references must have effective dates that are prior to the priority date of the present application, which is the filing date of Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-44371 on February 21, 2003. However, the effective date of Min, as indicated by its filing date, is June 5, 2003. Thus, Min does not qualify as prior art. For the Examiner's convenience, a translation of Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-044371, filed on February 21, 2003 and